

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 00862 311333Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 DOTE-00 SP-02 L-03  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 DODE-00 COME-00 /051 W  
-----100453 312316Z /72

R 310834Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6340  
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

CONFIDENTIAL KABUL 0862

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: BEXP, AF  
SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: AFGHAN RAILWAY

REF: 77 KABUL 8730

1. ACCORDING TO UNDP DEPUTY RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN KABUL, THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) HAS ACCEPTED THE REPORT OF THE FRENCH CONSULTANT, SOFRERAIL, ON THE AFGHAN RAILWAY AND HAS MADE A DECISION TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT WITH "ABSOLUTE TOP PRIORITY." THE UN WAS INVOLVED IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND THE AFGHANS.

2. THE QUESTION MARK REMAINING IS WHETHER THE IRANIANS WILL FOLLOW THROUGH ON THEIR COMMITMENT TO FINANCE THE RAILROAD. THUS FAR, WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ABOUT WHEN AND HOW THE GOA WILL APPROACH THE IRANIANS CONCERNING FUNDING.

3. COMMENT. WE HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS (SHARED SOMEWHAT BY THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR) THAT THE IRANIANS WILL CONSIDER FUNDING ALONE THIS BILLION DOLLAR PLUS PROJECT IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. IF THEY WILL NOT, OR CANNOT, DO SO BNWITH OR WITHOUT OTHER OPEC

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MONIES), THE PROJECT WILL MOST LIKELY HAVE TO BE SHELVED; SINCE NO OTHER PROSPECTIVE DONOR IS PRESENTLY IN SIGHT. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE SOVIETS MIGHT BE RECEPTIVE TO FINANCING A RAIL LINK BETWEEN HERAT THROUGH TORGHUNDI TO MARWA (IN TURKMENESTAN), BUT THIS WOULD BE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT PROJECT FROM THE ONE NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 31 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978KABUL00862  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Reference:** 77 KABUL 8730  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014